

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and following remarks. The title and abstract of the specification are revised to address informalities. Claims 1 and 15 are amended and are supported, for instance, at page 3, lines 20-22. Claims 5, 9, 11, 16, 19, and 21 are editorially revised. Claims 1-28 are pending.

Turning to the substance of the Office Action, the title of the specification is objected to for not being descriptive of the claimed invention. Applicants respectfully submit a revised title to which the claims are directed, and respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

The abstract of the disclosure was objected to for various informalities. Applicants respectfully submit a revision of the abstract to be inserted as the last page of the application and as a separate page. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-18, 20, 21, 23-25, 26, 27, and 28 are rejected under U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wills (US 6219623). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection to the extent it is maintained.

Generally, the invention as claimed relates to an AC power generating system and the connection/disconnection of such a system to a power supply grid. When an AC power generating system is not connected with a grid, electrical output is controlled by using one reference in a converter which is derived from the monitored AC power output voltage. This allows the power output of the AC generating system to be optimized according to the load conditions. Further, when an AC power generating system is connected to a power supply grid, operation of the converter is changed, so that the power output can correspond to the grid voltage, in phase and frequency. This is achieved by replacing the reference that is used in the operation of the converter with another reference which is derived from the monitored grid voltage.

Particularly, claim 1 is directed to a method of controlling connection of a supply of AC power to a load and to a power supply grid, and claim 15 is directed to a system which controls connection of a supply of AC power to a load and to a power supply grid. Both claims 1 and 15 recite the features of the one reference derived from the monitored

AC power output voltage and of the another reference derived from the monitored grid voltage. Claims 1 and 15 also recite that the voltage of the AC power output is changed to correspond to the grid voltage in phase and frequency.

Wills does not disclose or suggest at least claims 1 and 15. Wills discloses a system designed to disable “islanded” power sources that find themselves disconnected from a grid. Wills describes that the power source voltage and frequency are changed in an accelerating manner in response to observed changes in the grid, so that the power source can be swiftly shut down when a grid connection is lost because parameters of the power source have quickly exceed threshold levels. Wills, however, does not disclose or suggest the use of two references for use in the operation of a converter as in the claimed invention, with one reference for use when the AC power generating system is connected to a power supply grid and another reference for use during independent operation of the AC power generating system. Rather, Wills merely discloses a system where power output is controlled only in response to observed changes in the grid. For at least these reasons, Wills does not anticipate claims 1 and 15.

Additionally, Wills fails to disclose or suggest that, when the AC power generating system is connected to the power supply grid, the voltage of the AC power output is changed to correspond to a grid voltage in phase and in frequency. By contrast, Wills relates to behavior of a power source merely when it finds itself disconnected from a grid. Wills does not anticipate claims 1 and 15.

Moreover, the claimed invention can address a problem of how to control a converter in an AC power generating system when the system is connected to a grid. Wills, however, relates to disabling of an “islanded” energy source which is completely different and even further removed from the claimed invention. For at least the foregoing reasons, claims 1, 15 and respective dependent claims 2-4, 6, 7, 9-14, 16-18, 20, 21, 23-25, 26, 27, and 28 are allowable over Wills.

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 5 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wills (above) in view of Lynch et al. (US 2004/0145357). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection to the extent it is maintained.

Applicants respectfully note that the rejection refers to claim 22 and discusses the reference Lewis (US 2004/0174652) rather than Lynch et al. Applicants further note that the rejection discusses the claim limitations of claims 5 and 19, and refers to the Lewis reference. Thus, Applicants will assume that the rejection was directed to claims 5 and 19 as being unpatentable over Wills in view of Lewis.

Nonetheless, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 5 and 19 are allowable over the references cited for at least the same reasons with respect to claims 1 and 15. As discussed in detail above, Wills does not disclose or suggest claims 1 and 15. Lewis does not provide what is missing from Wills. Claims 5 and 19 respectively depend upon and further limit claims 1 and 15. Thus, claims 5 and 19 are allowable over Wills and Lewis for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 15. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection as applied to claims 5 and 19.

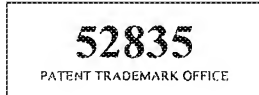
Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 8 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wills (above) in view of Lynch et al. (above). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection to the extent it is maintained.

Claims 8 and 22 are allowable over the references cited for at least the same reasons with respect to claims 1 and 15. As discussed in detail above, Wills does not disclose or suggest claims 1 and 15. Lynch et al. does not provide what is missing from Wills. Claims 8 and 22 respectively depend upon and further limit claims 1 and 15. Thus, claims 8 and 22 are allowable over Wills and Lynch et al. for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 15. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection as applied to claims 8 and 22.

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in a condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited. If any questions arise concerning this communication, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative listed below.

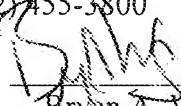


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